ISO 639-3 Registration Authority
Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3

Date: 2008-8-30

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Associated Change request number : 2008-093   (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : txk   (completed by Registration Authority)

Do not be concerned about your responses causing the form text spacing or pagination to change. Use Shift-Enter to insert a new line in a form field (where allowed)

1. NAMES and IDENTIFICATION

a) Preferred name of language for code element denotation:
Me'phaa, Malinaltepec

b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
Mè'phàà Xkuà Ixì Rìdìí (in that order); (single prime is l.c."saltillo", grave accents=macron-under vowels)

c) Alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
tlapaneco de Malinaltepec, Eastern Tlapanec, Me'phaa, Mè'phàà Mañuwìín, tlapaneco central bajo

d) Reason for preferred name:
"Me'phaa" identifies the language family according to the policies of the Me'phaa Language Development Committee (Comité de Desarrollo Lingüístico de la Lengua Me'phaa) in opposition to the pejorative "Tlapaneco" used by the colonists. Malinaltepec is the Spanish name of the the municipal head town, and the ancestral community considered the center of the language in the native taxonomy of ethnic regions.

e) Name of ethnic group or description of people who use this language and approximate population of users, if in use today:
35,000

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: txk

Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. Language identifiers are not intended to be an abbreviation for a name of the language, but to serve as a device to identify a given language uniquely. With thousands of languages, many sets of which have similar names, it is not possible to provide identifiers that resemble a language name in every case.

2. TEMPORAL DESCRIPTION and LOCATION

a) Is this a ☒ Living language
☐ Nearly extinct/secondary use only (includes languages in revival)
☐ Recently extinct language
☐ Historical language
☐ Ancient language
☐ Artificially constructed language

(Select one. See explanations of these types at http://www.sil.org/iso639%2D3/types.asp)

b) Countries where used:
Mexico

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used:
Located in the "Región de la Montaña" of the State of Guerrero: larger towns in the Municipio of Malinaltepec (north-to-south): El Tejocote, Moyotepec, Malinaltepec, Ojo de Agua, Paraje Montero, San Miguel el Progreso, Colombia de Guadalupe,Tilapa, Tierra Colorada, El Rincón; towns in Municipio of Iliatenco (new-2006): Alchipahua, Iliatenco, El Aserradero, Cruztomáhuac, San José Vista Hermosa; towns in Municipio of San Luis Acatlán: Pueblo Hidalgo, Pascala del Oro.

d) For an ancient or historical language, give approximate time frame; for a recently extinct language, give the approximate date of the last known user's death

3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION

a) This language is: ☐ Signed   ☒ Spoken   ☐ Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
Otomanguean

c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:
Me'phaa Tlacoapa [tpl], different features are shared in common with others of the Me'phaa languages.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
This language has had an SIL program since 1973, with literacy publications in the 1970s and scripture portions in the 1980s. The Malinaltepec language has been the most used by the CDI (former INI) multilingual radio station (Nawatl, Me'phaa, Mixteco) broadcasting from Tlapa, Guerrero. since the 1980s.

b) Is this language officially recognized by any level of government? Is it used in any levels of formal education as a language of instruction (for other subjects)? Is it taught in schools?:
INALI, the national indigenous language institute http://www.inali.gob.mx/catalogo2007/html/l_tlapaneco.html, recognizes this as one of 9 varieties of the language family.The federal bilingual education program has printed many books for primary schools, starting in 1983. They are intended for use in all the areas where Me'phaa is spoken, but are most effective in the Malinaltepec area. Some of the books have partial input from speakers of other varieties.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Used extensively in homes, local government, stores, on the street, etc.

5. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

You do not need to repeat sources previously identified in the form, "Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code"

a) First-hand knowledge. Describe:
I lived in three towns of the Malinaltepec area in the 1970s and 1980s, and have visited all of the other major towns. Between 1998 and 2008 I have been in close contact with the bilingual educators and their leaders, attending, by invitation, many of their 50 "Congresses of linguistic development" held during that period of time.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
I was in personal contact with Jorge A. Súarez, author of "La lengua tlapaneca de Malinaltepec", published by la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in 1983, the only formal published grammar and vocabulary of the language, with the exception of "Indiana 3: Bie den Azteken, Mixteken, und Tlapaneken der Sierra Madre del Sur von Mexiko", published by Leonhard Schultze-Jena in Germany in 1938. I have consulted and worked closely with Abad Carrasco Zúñiga, a Me'phaa speaker from the Malinaltepec area. We coauthored "Xó nitháán Mè'phàà: Cómo se escribe el tlapaneco" which was published by an informal entity called "Asociación para la promoción de la lecto-ecritura tlapaneca" in 1988. I reviewed and commented on parts of Mr. Carrasco's master's thesis in linguistics

for the Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS), which was a study of the morphological processes of the language but addressed social issues related to the differences between the various speech communities.

Please return this form to:

ISO 639-3 Registrar
SIL International, Office of Language Information Systems
7500 West Camp Wisdom Road
Dallas, Texas 75236 USA
ISO 639-3/RA web site: http://www.sil.org/iso639%2D3/default.asp
Email: iso639-3@sil.org
An email attachement of this completed form is preferred.

Further information:

If your request for a new language code element is supported by the Registration Authority as a formal proposal, you may be contacted separately by researchers working with the Ethnologue or with LinguistList asking you to provide additional information.

Sources of documentation for ISO 639-3 identifiers:

Gordon, Raymond G., Jr. (ed.), 2005. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Fifteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. Online version: http://www.ethnologue.com/ .

LinguistList. Ancient and Extinct Languages. http://cf.linguistlist.org/cfdocs/new-website/LL-WorkingDirs/forms/langs/GetListOfAncientLgs.html

LinguistList. Constructed Languages. http://cf.linguistlist.org/cfdocs/new-website/LL-WorkingDirs/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html